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- 5.—*The Romance of Natural History.* By P. H. GOSSE, F. R. S.
Boston: Gould and Lincoln. 1861. 12mo.

Gosse's name is a sufficient guaranty of the scientific merits of what he calls "an attempt to present natural history in this æsthetic fashion." He has arranged the latest and most curious discoveries in every department of Animate Nature under such extraordinary headings as Times and Seasons; Harmonies; Discrepancies; Multum è Parvo; The Vast; The Minute; The Memorable; The Recluse; The Wild; The Terrible; The Unknown; and The Great Unknown. This last chapter is an elaborate discussion of the Sea-Serpent question. Gosse inclines to the Enaliosaurian hypothesis. He gives a plate, showing that an Enaliosaur would present, when swimming at the surface of the ocean, where the head and long serpentine neck would be raised above the water, and the slender, lizard-like body, with its turtle's paddles, wholly submerged, exactly the appearance seen by the observers of the so-called Sea-Serpent.

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- 6.—*Ten Weeks in Japan.* By GEORGE SMITH, D. D., Bishop of Victoria (Hongkong). London. 1861. 8vo.

THE missionary Bishop seems to have made excellent use of the opportunities afforded by his high ecclesiastical station and his knowledge of Chinese customs, in his tour along the southern boundary of Japan from Nagasaki to Yeddo. He represents the people of Japan as but half civilized, and sadly given to intemperance and impurity. The power is at present in the hands of an aristocratical oligarchy, whose system of government consists mainly of the rigid exclusion of foreigners and a minute espionage of their own subjects. The climate as well as the insular position reminded the Bishop of his native country. The religion is Sinto-ism, a polytheism with a belief in a happy futurity, for which a life of joy in this world is thought the best preparation. Buddhism and Confucianism have however proved successful rivals of this system. The immediate prospects of Christianity do not appear encouraging. The circulation of the Bible is almost impossible, and so is any systematic preaching in Japanese. The missionaries must wait patiently for a higher civilization and a freer intercommunication. Dr. Smith attaches great importance to our diplomatic success with the Japanese, and an engraving of "the Japanese ambassadors at Washington" forms his frontispiece. He makes an earnest appeal to us in behalf of the forty-five thousand Chinese in California, who are incapacitated from giving evidence in any court of justice, and thus deprived, in great part, of the right of self-protection.